[English]

Direct Train from Gandhidham to New Delhi

3598. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run a direct train from Gandhidham to New Delhi via Ahmedabad-Nadiad-Godhra to meet the persistent demand as a stop gap arrangement;

(b) if so, the time by which this train is likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Shortage of Postmen

3599. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal delivery in Vikas Kunj and Loni area of Ghaziabad District is unsatisfactory due to the shortage of postmen; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government for smooth postal delivery in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The delivery of mail in Vikas Kunj and Loni area of U.P. is generally satisfactory despite shortage of postmen. There is justification for additional posts of postmen but due to ban on creation of posts, new posts of postmen cannot be created.

(b) The work is being managed with the help of existing staff.

Broadcast of Programme in Madhya Pradesh on F.M. Band

3600. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programmes broadcast by All India Radio, Betul in Madhya Pradesh are received on F.M. band only;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that F.M. band is not fitted in radio sets available in Betul District;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide F.M. Band radio sets to the Panchayats and schools;

(d) number of hours radio programmes are broadcast from the above station;

(e) whether the Government propose to start broadcasting of programmes in Korku language for Korku people residing in Betul district; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Radio receivers having both AM/FM Bands are manufactured within the country and are easily available in the open market all over the country now.

(c) There is no approved scheme for supply of FM Band receivers to schools and Panchayats.

(d) Betul station relays Vividh Bharati Service between 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and broadcasts locally originated programmes from 5.00 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. Regional News from Bhopal and National News from Delhi are also relayed during these hours.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable.

[English]

Financial Assistance to U.P. for Rural Housing

3601. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent a proposal in July, 1996 to the Union Government regarding development of rural housing sites and allotment of the same to economically weaker and houseless families seeking financial assistance to implement the said scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.